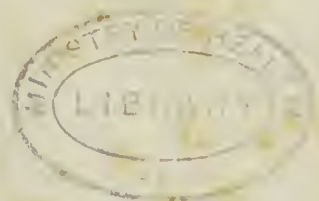


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BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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* ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL
* OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
* URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIERFIELD
* FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER
* 31ST. 1925.
*

Medical Officer of Health
DR. JAMES STRACHAN WILSON. M.B., O.M.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Brierfield.

June 1926.

BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department.
Town Hall,
Brierfield.



To the Chairman and Members
Brierfield U.D. Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Twenty-second Annual Report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Administration of the Urban District of Brierfield referring to the year ended 31st. December 1925.

The Ministry of Health have intimated that this report should be a "Survey Report" and deal comprehensively with the measure of progress made during the last 5 years.

The condition of Road surfaces has been considerably improved during the period under review. There has been a gradual conversion of Pail Closets to the water-carriage system. There have been 31 dwelling houses completed and approved during the period 1921-25 chiefly of the urban type. Most of the houses which were dependant upon springs for the supply of water in 1920 now obtain a supply from the Nelson Corporation Mains. A length of main sewer has been completed along Reedley Road to the sewer in Halifax Road. The scavenging of the district is undertaken by the Council as formerly and the refuse is now collected and conveyed to the Nelson Destructor by motor vehicle. The work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme has been amplified and more evening meetings are held at the Clinic for Ante-Natal treatment. Complete schemes for the treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases have been in operation for some years now under the auspices of the Lancashire County Council.

There have been no epidemics of particular note during the five years under review. The number of cases of infectious diseases has been fairly low and generally of a mild type.

In the following report each matter is dealt with in detail under its respective heading.

The failing health and death in November of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Halstead occasioned many regrets amongst all who knew him.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. S. Wilson

Medical Officer of Health.

June 1926.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

AREA.

The area of the Urban District is 807 acres, 100 acres of the Western portion being of Urban Character. The district is roughly oblong in shape being approximately 2 miles from East to West, and 1 mile from North to South. There is a direct slope from the East, i.e. from Marsdon Heights to Pendle Water in the West, giving a total fall of 552 feet in $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

POPULATION.

The population has been estimated by the Registrar General as 8292, and I have calculated my statistics upon that basis. The population in 1921 was 8341 and the number of inhabited houses was 2074, to-day the estimated number of such houses is 2105.

RATEABLE VALUE.

The rateable value was fixed at the increased figure of £46,741 and a penny rate estimated to produce £195 gross. There are only a few back-to-back houses, most of the houses in the area are of the modern type and are in fairly good order. The chief occupation is Cotton Weaving and this is probably conducive to the prevalence of respiratory troubles.

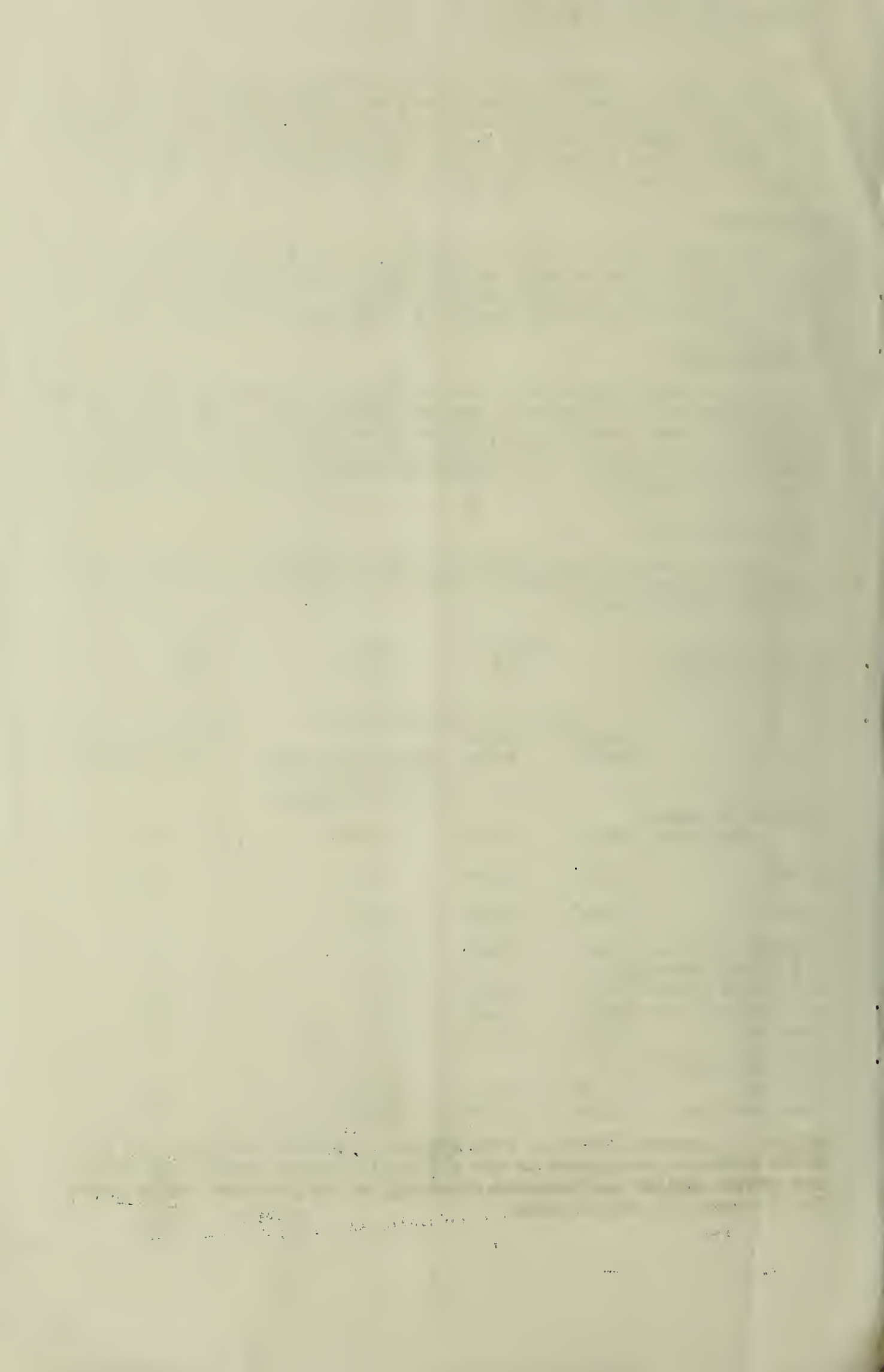
VITAL STATISTICS.

The following tables summarise the Birth Rate, Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality, for the past ten years also in comparison with the whole Country.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births in 1925.	104	60	44
Deaths in 1925.	91	59	52

	Birth	Death	Death rate from	Rate of Births
	Rato.	Rato.	tuberculosis of	under 1 year per
			respir. system.	1000 Births.
Mean of 10 years				
1915-24.	14.25	12.90	0.975	94
1924.	10.10	12.60	0.71	176
1925.	12.50	10.90	0.56	76
England & Wales.	18.3	12.2	-	75
105 County Boroughs				
and large towns.	18.8	12.2	-	79
157 Smaller towns	18.3	11.2	-	74
London.	18.0	11.7	-	67
Increase or Decrease				
in 1925 on Ten Years				
Average.	-1.75	-2.00	-0.615	-18
Previous Year.	+2.40	-1.70	-0.35	-100

BIRTHS. Essential details with regard to Births belonging to the Urban District are given in the following table, along with which are given similar particulars relating to the previous three years for purposes of comparison.



	1925.	1924.	1923.	1922.
Population for births.	8292	8354	8392	8445
Total births.	104	85	119	127
Male.	60	47	62	74
Female.	44	38	57	53
Total illegitimate Births.	9	4	7	8
Male.	5	3	5	5
Female.	4	1	2	3
Total Birth Rate.	12.5	10.1	14.1	15.08
Illegitimate Birth Rate.	1.08	.47	.83	.94
Percentage of Illegitimate Births.	8.06%	4.7%	5.8%	6.8%

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Similar details with regard to Infantile Mortality are given below.

	1925.	1924.	1923.	1922.
Population.	8292	8354	8392	8445
Total Births.	104	85	119	127
Total Infantile Deaths.	8	15	11	12
Male.	4	9	10	10
Females.	4	6	1	2
Total Infantile Mortality Rate.	76	176	92	94
Total Illegitimate Deaths under 1 Year.	-	-	-	1

The following table gives full details of the causes of deaths of infants under one year.

	Disease.	hours.	days.	weeks.
E.....	Premature Birth.....	8		
B.....	Do.	14		
T.....	Do.		2	
Accidents at Birth.				

C.....	Atolactasis.....	$\frac{3}{4}$		
Broncho Pneumonia.				

C.....	Acute Broncho Pneumonia.....			4
H.....	Do.			8
H.....	Gastro Enteritis-Broncho Pneumonia.			4
J.....	Do. -Acute Bronchitis.			23



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DEATHS.

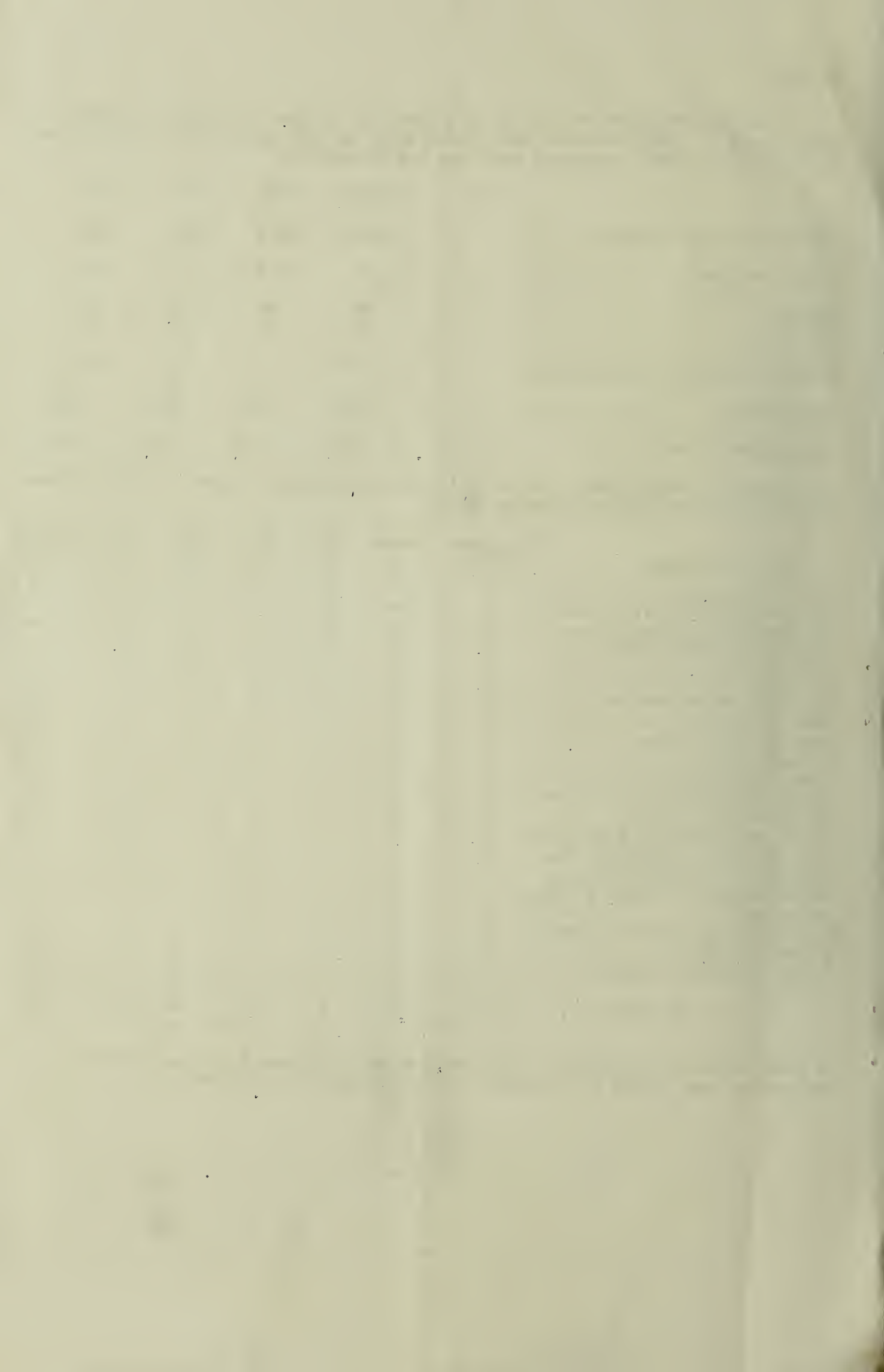
Comparative particulars with regard to deaths are given below. From these it will be seen that one-fifth of the total deaths belonging to Brierfield have occurred outside the district.

	1925	1924	1923	1922
Population for deaths.	8292	8354	8392	8445
Total Deaths.	91	106	91	121
Males.	39	46	54	67
Females.	52	60	37	54
Deaths outside the district.	20	18	19	20
Proportion do. do.	22%	17%	21%	16½%
Annual Death Rate.	10.9	12.6	10.8	14.32

The following table gives the ages at and the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during 1925.

Cause of Death.	All ages Total.	Under 1	1to 5	5to 15.	15to 25	25 to 65	Over 65
Influenza.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough.....	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles.....	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis....	3	-	-	-	1	2	-
Cancer.....	8	-	-	1	-	3	4
Diabetes.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebral Haemorrhage.....	20	-	-	-	-	6	12
Heart Disease.....	12	-	-	-	-	3	7
Arterio Sclerosis.....	6	-	-	-	-	1	5
Bronchitis.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia.....	11	2	1	-	-	1	7
Other respiratory Diseases.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Diarrhoea.....	2	2	-	-	-	1	-
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.	3	-	-	-	-	1	2
Appendicitis & Typhilitis..	3	-	-	1	-	2	-
Congenital Debility and Malformation & Prem. Birth.	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide.....	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
*Other deaths from violence.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rheumatic Fever.....	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other defined diseases....	9	-	-	-	1	6	2
Totals.....	91	8	4	2	4	31	41

* This death is included in the Registrar's return but there is no record of any death by violence in the Council's register.



MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The report of the Health Visitor on her visits and attendances during the year is as follows :-

Ante-Natal Visits.....	52
Do. do. Re-visits.....	197
Births. First Visits.....	98
Infants Re-visits.....	756
Child Welfare Visits.....	1023
Measles Visits and re-visits.....	446
Whooping Cough Visits and Re-visits.....	115
Diarrhoea Visits and Re-visits.....	15
Midwifery Cases.....	1
Infantile Mortality Enquiries.....	6
Still Birth Enquiries.....	1
Massage Cases.....	24
Chicken Pox.....	3
Pneumonia.....	21
Attendances at Infant Welfare for :-	
Ante-Natal Clinic.....	8
Baby Welcome.....	52
Sewing Classes.....	49
Sales of Special Foods.....	70
Total.....	2937.

The average attendance of Mothers and Children attending the Infant Welfare Centre during the year was :-

Mothers.....	31.4
Infants under one year.	17.3
Children under 5 years.	15.8
Expectant Mothers.....	3.5

The Annual Christmas Tree and Childrens Treat was held in the National Schoolroom and was greatly enjoyed by Mothers and Children.

A body of lady helpers have again been of great assistance in carrying on the Centre, and their services are much appreciated.

Brierfield forms part of the Poor Law Union of Burnley and as occasion arises cases are admitted to the Primrose Bank Poor Law Institution.

There have been no causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the Area during the period under review, or any conditions of environment or occupation which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITAL ACCOMODATION.

SMALLPOX. The Burnley Joint Hospital Board holds 30 beds available for Brierfield patients at the Crown Point Hospital.

OTHER INFECTIOUS CASES. About 112 beds are available for Brierfield patients at the Burnley Joint Hospital Board's Isolation Hospital at Kibble Bank.

At both the above Institutions expenditure on Capital Account is divided between the Local Authorities concerned on the basis of the Authorities Rateable Value whilst expenditure on Revenue account is apportioned according to the number of cases admitted from the Authority's Area.

There is no hospital accomodation in the district for cases of Tuberculosis, Maternity or Child Welfare nor is there any Union Infirmary in the Area.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The County Council also control the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Disease and the Centre has been established at Burnley Victoria Hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

INFECTIOUS CASES. A Motor Ambulance is provided by the Burnley Joint Hospital Board for the removal of cases of infectious disease to the isolation Hospital.

GENERAL CASES. Illness and accident cases are removed to and from Hospital by a Motor Ambulance owned by the Nelson Corporation.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The appointment of Medical Officer of Health is a part time one, the duties being equally divided between Maternity and General Health Administration.

The Sanitary Inspector also is not a full time official, his duties being divided between the offices of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

The appointment of Health Visitor is a full time one. The Council do not employ nor assist a Midwife, but the Health Visitor is a qualified midwife and is at present on the County Council's register. There does not appear to be sufficient work to retain a full-time midwife.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

GENERAL. The whole of the district is covered by a service of Nurses from the Burnley and District Nursing Association who make daily visits to Brierfield and are available for all cases except infectious diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. No arrangements are made for the professional nursing of infectious cases in the home.

TUBERCULOSIS. The treatment of cases of tuberculosis is entirely in the hands of the Lancashire County Council whose Sanatoria are situated in various parts of the County.

MATERNITY. The Council are prepared to assist necessitous cases who enter the Primrose Bank Maternity Hospital Burnley and other cases will be admitted to the above or to the Fern Bank Maternity Hospital, Nelson upon payment of expenses. During the year twenty one births were notified from Institutions. This condition of affairs is very satisfactory. All mothers are being encouraged to go into Public Maternity Homes as cottage houses are not suited for Maternity Work.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This service is under the direct control of the District Council. The headquarters of the department are situated at the Ambulance Hall, Grubtree Street, where the accommodation consists of a Clinic, Waiting Room (which is used also for lectures) and a weighing room. The Clinic is open weekly as follows :-

Wednesday (weekly) 3 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. Sewing Class.
Thursday (do.) 2-30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Baby Weighing.
Do. (fortnightly) 7 to 8 p.m. (Expectant Mothers).
Friday (weekly) 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Massage.
Do. (do.) 3 p.m. to 7-30 p.m. Sale of Special Foods.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The administration of tuberculosis work is controlled by the Lancashire County Council and Brierfield is included in the Accrington area. The nearest available dispensary is at 64, Carr Road, Nelson, and the district is under the supervision of a County Council Tuberculosis Nurse. A supply of materials for the use of patients is kept in the Health Department.

LABORATORY WORK.

The cost of all pathological examinations in connection with the diagnosis of infectious diseases is defrayed by the Council. You will remember the Council agreed to pay the fee of £7 - 5 - 6 for the year ending 31st. March. This was the amount paid to the Yorkshire Laboratory the year previous. The actual cost last year would have been £2 - 5 - 0 as shown below. The laboratory work for the year ending 31st. March 1927 will be done for an inclusive fee of £2 - 5 - 0.

	Sputa for T.B.	Swabs for Diphth.	Blood		
No. examined.	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Smears.
15.	1	2	1	3	1

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

The following Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Regulations are in force in the District :- Infectious Diseases Notification Act 1889.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1890.

Byelaws with respect to Slaughterhouses, New Streets and Buildings.

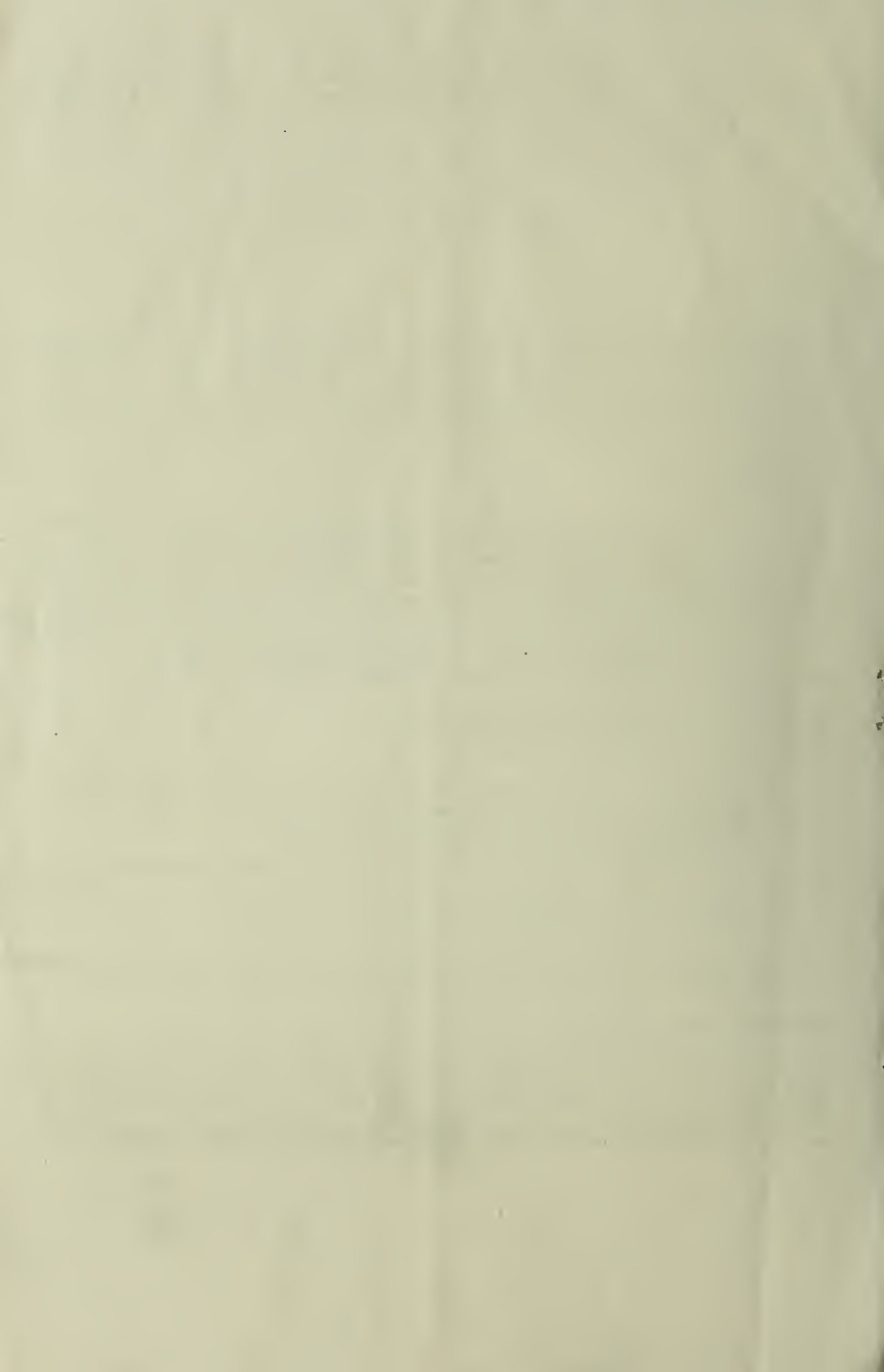
Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Private Street Works Act 1892.

The Council are preparing to adopt the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

WATER. Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of water from the mains of the Nelson Corporation. The gathering ground being on the Yorkshire Moors and Pendle Forest. The water from Ogden Reservoir is neutralised by chalk solution. A few outlying farmsteads and cottages on Marsden Heights obtain their supplies from wells and springs.



All other houses are now connected up with the Main supply

RIVERS. The County Council periodically take samples from Pongilo Water and examine for pollution. Analine dyes from the neighbouring mills occasionally get into the stream.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The sewage disposal works are quite capable of dealing with the sewage of the District. It consists of septic tanks and double contact beds, the Sewage is conveyed to the works by gravitation. There is a direct fall of 550 feet from Marsdon Heights to the works. Part of the sewage from Marsdon Heights now falls into the Nelson Sowerage System. A few houses still are drained into a tank.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION AT END OF 1925.

We have now but a small number of pail closets. The Closet accomodation of the Cottages at Lane Ends have been converted to waste water closets during the last five years, the only pail closets now are in the isolated cottages in Marsdon Heights.

SCAVENGING.

This is carried out by the Urban District Council who employ their own workmen and transport waggon. The Transport waggon is a two ton Guy Tipping Waggon. Domestic Refuse from Private Houses, Shops and Mills, and some trade refuse is removed free of charge.

	Loads.
Domestic Refuse (Ashes etc.) tipped at Sewage Works.....	1058
Do. do. (do.) do. Linedred Allotments....	89
Pail Closet refuse spread on land.....	146
Sweepings removed from Roads.....	216
Grit removed from Street Gullies.....	137
Shop Refuse destroyed at Nelson.....	189
Domestic Refuse do. do.....	509
	Bins.
Fish Refuse destroyed at Nelson Destructor.....	285.
Slaughterhouse Refuse do. do.....	519.

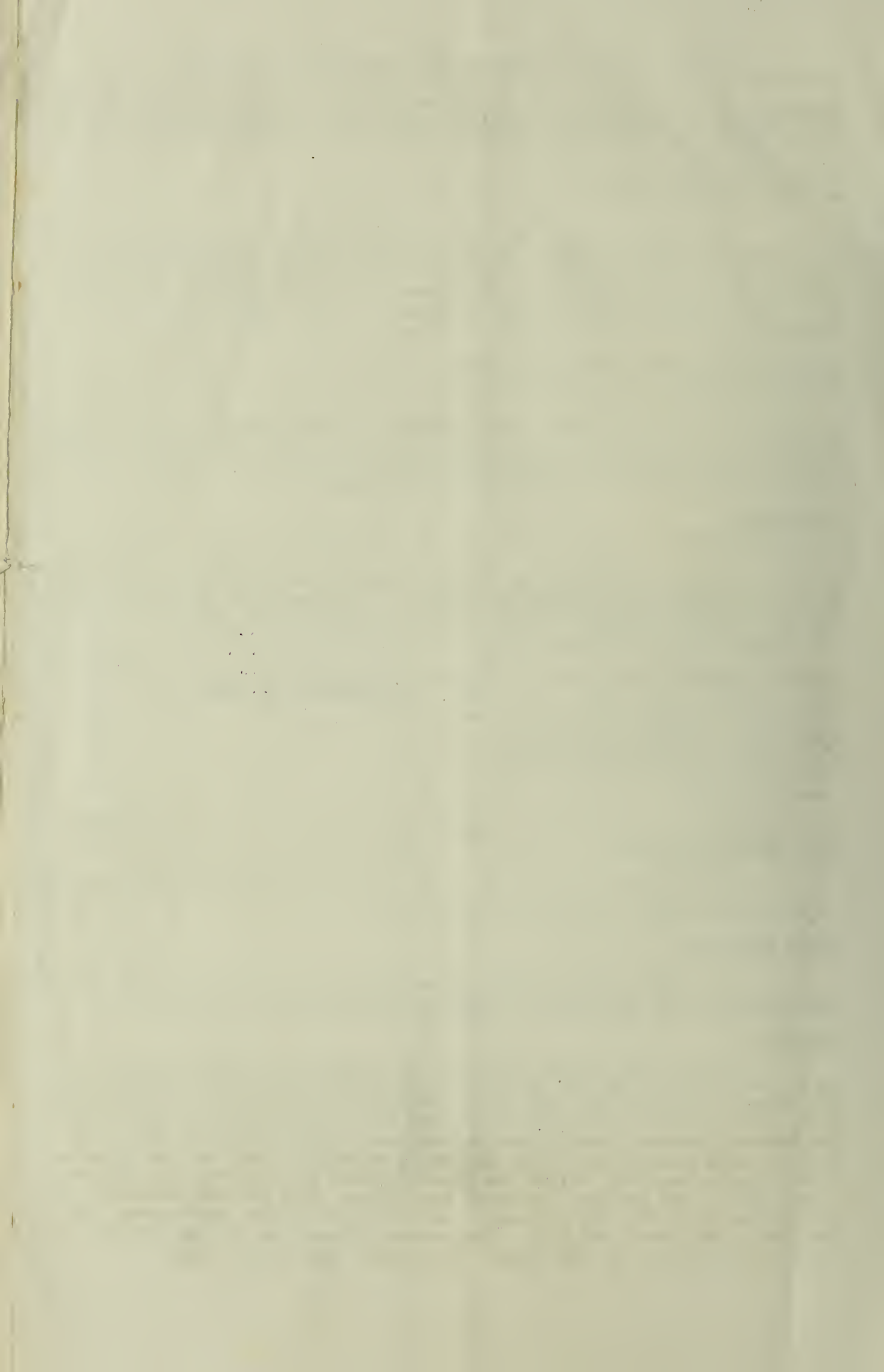
The refuse is disposed of at the Nelson Corporation Destructor by agreement with the Nelson Corporation.

SMOKE NUISANCE.

The firm which was the chief source of complaint has installed improved moveable fire-bars. They are acting very satisfactorily.

HOUSING.

Since 1920 until this year very few new houses have been built but towards the end of 1925 an estate plan for the building of 150 houses has been made and will shortly be submitted to the Council. This, if completed, will entirely meet the requirements of the Town. The general housing conditions in the area are fairly good and a few back to back houses are being gradually converted into modern houses. Over-crowding is only slight in this district the shortage of houses being due to the present economic condition. The general standard of the houses is good, the customary accomodation being four rooms with Scullery, coalhouse and W.C. The general character of the defects is insufficient space at the back. (continued next page)



There is as a rule little trouble experienced in getting the tenants and the owner to remedy any defects when notice has been sent requiring them to do so. We have no really unhealthy areas in the district but we have not that control over Vans and tents which is really required and our Byelaws need revision for this purpose.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The milk supply is plentiful and its quality wholesome. It is distributed throughout the district directly by the farmers in the vicinity. The County Council make periodical examinations.

MEAT.

Any condemned meat is sent to the Nelson Destructor. Regular inspections of animals and carcasses are made. The Butchers are now required to notify the Sanitary Department three hours before they kill. All meat is now protected from dust and flies by muslin and closed windows.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Five cowkeepers have 10 cowsheds in the District and these have been kept under observation during the year. There are two Dairymen, both of whom are registered. Regulations under the Order of the Local Government Board were made by the Council on May 11th. 1911 these are enforced but no standard of air space has been fixed.

Periodically bacteriological examination of samples of milk is made by the County Council. Periodical inspections of places where food is prepared have been made and the premises generally have been found in good order.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

During the five years ending December 31st. 1925 we have had no serious epidemic of Infectious Diseases. One has to note that Scarlet Fever and Measles is generally of a milder character and on the other hand Influenza and its sequelae are of a more serious nature. Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept in the Health Department at the Town Hall and is supplied free to all practitioners on application. Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery and Trench Fever the result mainly of war service have practically disappeared. We have had one or two mild cases of Malaria.

Repeated inspections of the District have been made and the general health of the inhabitants appears to be good.

